

Listing of Claims:

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1. (Presently Amended) A method of exchanging information and/or conducting transactions can be maintained between parties from inception to enforceable contractual acceptance on multiple platforms; all the while maintaining a virtual presence during exchanges of information, ~~in~~ in combination with servers operating a web site with discrete transactional webpages for identifying the subject matter of a potential contract from one user to an inquiring party, the process of assuring virtual presence of the inquiring party during exchanges of information, transactions, and/or contract formation comprising the steps of: providing a server with discrete transactional webpages for identifying the subject matter of a potential contract or information exchange with another party; receiving inquiry from an inquiring party over the Internet with the inquiring party browsing transactional webpages to identify the subject matter of a potential transaction and/or contract from another party; logging-on the inquiring party at the server with at least one direct contact route with an augment logon procedure with the at least one direct contact routes from the server to the inquiring party; soliciting and/or using cookies, caller identification, IP addresses, or any other means of contacting the inquiring party constituting the identification of the inquiring party as to enable the contact of the inquiring party for possible exchanges of information, transactions and/or contract consummation; communicating from the server to the parties listing the contact subject matter for the purpose of acceptance or rejection by the parties; receiving information and/or exchanges of Information for acceptance or rejection from one party to another; and, communicating to the inquiring party through the direct/indirect communication route the exchanges of information, transactions, and/or acceptance or rejection response of the parties; and continuing said soliciting, communicating, receiving and directly/indirectly communicating steps between the inquiring party and another party until

an exchange of information or contractual relationship is established between the inquiring party and another party.

2. (Original) The process of assuring virtual presence of the inquiring party during exchanges of information, transactions and/or contract formation according to claim 1 and wherein:
the contact route is selected from the group including but not limited to landline, mobile phone, pager, and direct/indirect computer to computer communication.

- AI 3 (Original) The process of assuring virtual presence of the inquiring party during exchanges of information, transactions, and/or contract formation according to claim 1 and wherein:
the directly/indirectly communicating to the inquiring party step includes
providing a plurality of direct contact routes between parties and browser;
and,
indexing occurring through the contact routes until actual contact is attained with the inquiring party across multiple platforms.

4. (Original) The process of assuring virtual presence of the inquiring party during exchanges of information, transactions, and/or contract formation according to claim 1 and wherein:
the contract is a hotel reservation.

5. (Original) The process of assuring virtual presence of the inquiring party during exchanges of information, transactions, and/or contract formation according to claim 1 and wherein:
the soliciting from the inquiring party to the server may include obtaining the geographic location of the inquiring party; and,
the communicating from the server to the party may include communicating to a party geographically convenient to the inquiring party.

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6. (Original) The process of assuring virtual presence of the inquiring party during exchanges of information, transactions, and/or contract formation according to claim 1 and wherein:
the contractual formation is an auction contract.
 7. (Original) The process of assuring virtual presence of the inquiring party during contract formation according to claim 1 and wherein:
the at least one other parameter related to possible contract consummation is other than money.
 8. (Original) The process of assuring virtual presence of the inquiring party during contract formation according to claim 1 and wherein:
the inquiring party becomes the offeree for the contract.
 9. (Original) The process of assuring virtual presence of the inquiring party during exchanges of information, transactions, and/or contract formation according to claim 1 and wherein:
the continuing said soliciting, communicating, receiving and directly/indirectly communicating steps between the inquiring party and another party until a contractual relation is established between the inquiring party and another party.
 10. (Original) The process of assuring virtual presence between parties during exchanges of information, transactions, and/or contract formation according to claim 1 and wherein:
the continuing said soliciting, communicating, receiving and directly/indirectly communicating between the inquiring party and another party and may continue until a contractual relation is established between the inquiring party and another party relates to prior contractual relationships.
 11. (Original) The process of virtual presence of the parties until no bidding has taken place for a predetermined amount of time.

12. (Presently Amended) The process of virtual presence of the parties extending the predetermined timed out end of bidding until the bidding stall timesm has elapsed.

13. (Original) The notification process of assuring virtual presence between parties exchanging information across multiple platforms for instant messaging purposes.

14. (New) A method of managing bidding in a computer facilitated auction, the method comprising:

pre-determining a time for ending bidding in computer facilitated auction;

determining a stall time period;

receiving a bid; and

automatically extending the time for ending bidding, using the stall time period

and responsive to receiving the bid; and

ending the auction after no bids have been received for a length of time equal to at

least the stall time period.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, further including receiving another bid and again automatically extending the time for ending bidding.

16. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein ending the computer facilitated auction occurs when no bids have been received for a length of time equal to at least the stall time period and the pre-determined time for ending bidding in the auction has passed.

17. (New) The method of claim 14, further including notifying a bidder of the extended time for ending bidding.

18. (New) The method of claim 14, further including notifying a bidder of a new high bid.

19. (New) The method of claim 14, further including notifying a bidder of a new high bid, the notification being sent through a plurality of different types of communication channels.

AI 20. (New) The method of claim 14, further including notifying a bidder of the extended time for ending bidding, the notification being made through a wireless network to a receiving device, the receiving device being configured for the inquiring party to make another bid using the receiving device.

21. (New) The method of claim 14, further including notifying a bidder of the extended time for ending bidding, the notification being made through a wireless network to a receiving device, the receiving device being a mobile telephone, an internet connected phone or a wireless personal digital assistant, and the receiving device being configured for the bidder to place another bid using the receiving device.

22. (New) The method of claim 14, further including automatically notifying a plurality of bidders of the extended time for ending bidding, the notification being made through a computing network.

23. (New) The method of claim 14, further including notifying a plurality of bidders of the extended time for ending bidding, the notification being made using instant messaging.

24. (New) A computing system configured for managing an auction, the computing system comprising:

means for pre-determining a first time for ending bidding in the auction;

means for determining a stall time period;

means for receiving a bid at a bid time; and

means for notifying bidders of the received bid, the notification including a

second time for ending bidding in the auction, the second time for ending

bidding in the auction being at the bid time plus the stall time period or

later.

25. (New) A method of establishing a contract, the method comprising:

providing an interface to an inquiring party, the interface being for identifying a

subject matter of a potential contract;

receiving an inquiry at a server from an inquiring party, the inquiry identifying the

subject matter of a potential contract and including an offer;

identifying the inquiring party;

communicating the offer from the server to a listing party;

receiving, at the server, a temporary rejection from the listing party;

communicating the temporary rejection to the inquiring party, the communication

to the listing party being made through a wireless network to a receiving

device, the receiving device being a mobile telephone or a wireless

personal digital assistant and being configured for the inquiring party to

respond using the receiving device;

storing the temporary rejection in a database of offers that have been temporarily rejected;

receiving, at the server, information of possible acceptance of the offer by at least one party;

communicating information of the possible acceptance to the inquiring party from to the receiving device; and

receiving, at the server, a response to the information of the possible acceptance, from the inquiring party.

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26. (New) A system for obtaining a reservation, the system comprising:

a database; and

a server configured to store denied reservation requests in the database, to receive a reservation cancellation, to query the database in order to determine if the cancellation enables fulfillment of a previously denied reservation request stored in the database, to notify a user that the previously denied reservation request is now enabled, and receive a response from the user accepting or declining the previously denied reservation request.

27. (New) A method of obtaining a reservation, the method comprising:

requesting the reservation from a reservation provider;

receiving an initial denial for the requested reservation from the reservation provider;

storing the reservation request on a server, the server configured to include a database of denied reservation requests;

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receiving a reservation cancellation at the server;
querying the database to determine that the reservation cancellation makes
fulfillment of the requested reservation allowable;
communicating the allowed fulfillment of the reservation request to a requestor of
the reservation request, the communication to the requestor being made
through a wireless network to a receiving device, the communication
being configured for the requestor to accept the now allowed fulfillment of
the reservation request, and the server being configured to automatically
send the communication responsive to receiving the reservation
cancellation.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, further including receiving an acceptance from the requestor for completion of the requested reservation.
29. (New) The method of claim 27, further including receiving a rejection from the requestor for non-completion of the requested reservation, and querying the database to determine if fulfillment of an other denied reservation request is made allowable by the cancellation.
30. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the reservation is for a hotel, a restaurant or a flight.
31. (New) A method of performing a transaction, the method comprising:
receiving from a user a request for notification of an event relating to the
transaction;

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receiving from the user indication of a plurality of two-way communication channels for providing the requested notification;

detecting occurrence of the event;

attempting to notify the user of the event through a first of the plurality of two-way communication channels;

attempting to notify the user of the event through a second of the plurality of two-way communication channels;

repeating the attempt to notify the user of the event through the first of the plurality of to-way communication channels and the attempt to notify the user of the event through the second of the plurality of two-way communication channels, until a communication session is established using one of the plurality of two-way communication channels; and

providing the notice using the established communication session.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, further including receiving a response to the notice from the user.

33. (New) The method of claim 31, further including receiving a response to the notice from the user in real-time.

34. (New) The method of claim 31, further including receiving a response to the notice from the user, and maintaining the communication session until a contract relating to the transaction is established.

35. (New) The method of claim 31, further including receiving a response to the notice from the user, wherein the response includes a request to receive notice of another event relating to the transactions.

36. (New) A method of providing a selling service, the method including:

receiving a connection from a wireless access device, the connection received at a

server configured for providing the selling service;

determining a geographic location of the wireless access device;

designating one or more merchants using the geographic information;

receiving a request for a product or service from the wireless access device

through the connection;

forwarding the request for a product or service to the designated one or more

merchants;

receiving an acceptance of the request from at least a first of the designated one or

more merchants; and

sending the received acceptance from the server to the wireless access device.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the acceptance is conditional on a price specified by the first of the designated one or more merchants.

38. (New) The method of claim 36, further including receiving an acceptance of the request from at least a second of the designated one or more merchants, the acceptance being conditional on a price specified by the second of the designated one or more merchants,

A1

comparing the acceptance received from the first of the designated one or more
merchants with the acceptance received from the second of the designated
one or more merchants, and
sending one of the received acceptances to the wireless access device, responsive
to the comparison.
